

Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
By Bill Whitman



Things to Do--Today

Depart for Paris and the Grand Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe then see about chartering the Queen Elizabeth for a private cruise next summer. Now that's the kind of trivia one may glean from a beautifully bound book called *The Millionaire's Diary*. Where else can you find such information than here!

But since you can't charter the Queen Elizabeth, your next best move might be something like the S. S. *Princess Louise* which is probably closer to your pocket book. It is from this end of the paper, anyway.

You're always assured of good food and a "safe crossing" aboard *The Princess*, and with a chef like French-born Paul Peron in the galley you are doubly assured of excellent cuisine. Add to this newly appointed Sous Chef, Leo Roy who has won numerous honors for his flair along the continental cookery route, and you can't miss for some superb dining.

Oooooops! Know where Groovie Roothie is these days? That's Ruthie Thomas, naturally and just had a phone call from Dick Johnston telling us that Ruthie's opening Thursday

nite, Oct. 10, at his Charter Oak spot in Mar Vista.

You remember Dynamic Ruthie, the sing-a-long gal that works with the patrons whether they want to do solos or sin-a-long-type vocaling—a hard-working gal so now you know where to find her.

You'll find the Charter Oak at the corner of Venice and Inglewood Boulevards and as they tell you in jolly old England—"You Cawn't Miss It!" See you-all there!

Don't know just how many nites a week Ruthie's working 'cause it was pretty short notice that we heard but we'll know more about it next week. Meantime, go on by and catch her. If you never have before, you'll be glad you did, 'cause she's a barrel of fun and has mucho talent with mucho personality to match.

Should be duly noted and recorded here that all ye spaghetti fiends had better make it by Shipwreck Joey's in Wilmington before 10 o'clock at nite or you might wind up at the small end of the horn on that "all you can eat" bit for a quarter.

Joey, Ruth, and Ike are still featuring Carl Cody and his all-star western band these nites with the same gang backing him up with

one exception. Now it's Frank Prinkle on drums, along with Jimmie Lynn on bass and Gene Fields on steel.

There's no admission charge at Shipwreck Joey's so don't hold the horses. Hie ye down there to Figueroa and "B" streets—"where the freeway ends and the fun begins!"

So guess you probably know that this Saturday is Columbus Day and in honor of the occasion Millie Riera will have her *Seafood Grotto* all decked out for the event.

And, just as the Irish have specials for St. Paddy's Day, and likewise the French for Bastille Day, this Saturday has a special meaning for Italians and Millie's not going to be caught short. The special will be White Bass Mare Nostrum and is made marinara-style and will be served with appetizer, soup or salad, Sicilian pizza, and potato. How much for all this? Just \$3.65, that's how much!

In addition to the special Columbus Day fare, the *Seafood Grotto* will also feature some two dozen fish entrees, steaks, and Italian pasta.

They're open daily for luncheon, cocktails, and dinner at 1700 Esplanade, Redondo Beach. Corner of Avenue I overlooking the ocean.

Many notables of the entertainment world avail themselves of the fine foods-of-Spain cuisine offered at Bill Fremont's *Matador Restaurant* and noted one nite recently prior to the screening of the film "Rachel, Rachel" at the theatre a couple of blocks down, were Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman. Miss Woodward starred in the pic and Mr. Newman was the producer.

Along about the same nite enjoying the Flamenco floor show were Jean Crain and Paul Brinkman. And now with the approach of the winter social season, the beautiful new *Del Prado Room* has been getting a big play for reservations far in advance. This room is available for parties from 20 to 60 persons Sunday through Thursday evenings and owner-host Fremont says, "We have everything in banquets from budget specials to luxurious gourmet repasts."

That new guy Nick Cicca-

relli signed into his Jet Room Lounge on La Cienega at Centinela is really something. His name's Bill Fulkerson and he's no stranger to many of the old regulars, having played for them and Nick at the Club Capri in Santa Monica away back in the dear dark days.

Bill's a Kansas City man who's always played a single with his great pianoing and rare good style. Plays a single, that is, with the exception of Diane—she's his wife although she's not in the act. Merely comes along now and then as sort of moral support.

Like all entertainers at the Jet Room, Bill works with the patrons on their sing-a-longs and solos employing the traveling mike and everyone has a ball.

It was a goodly crowd that greeted William last Tuesday nite for his opening and it's the kind of a bunch you probably will see at every performance of Bill Fulkerson as long as he's at the Jet Room Lounge—which from here, looks like it might be for quite a run.

The same nite we dropped across the parking lot for a few minutes to see Tom Whally at the King's X Restaurant and one of the finest "off the cuff" voices rose in song from one of the tables.

Checked into him and find his name is Adrian French. Here's a guy that needs no mike to be heard. What a shame that talent like that has to be buried in the business world instead of the entertainment field.

And at the piano there was one of the finest accompanists we've ever heard. He's Tom's regular piano man there, Lennie Marvin who plays for a vocalist the way a pianoman should—he follows the singer instead of the other way around.

If you'll recall, The Young Polynesians was the Monday nite attraction at The Tea House Restaurant in Torrance and due to the tremendous popularity this group has built over the past few weeks, lounge manager Ronnie Iwamoto has moved them into the week-slot and a hard-hitting group they are.

No Charlie-come-latelies to the entertainment world. The Young Polynesians was formed some two years ago and because they are the half breed of today's Polynesians, stimulating memories of yesteryear music, they decided on their present name, combining yesterday's music with the fast-changing modern music and dancing of their native homeland.

Leader, and choreographer of the group, Teharu Robbie is one of the hardest working musicians you'll see in some time and the results show it in the audience reaction wherever they appear.



WOWEEE! . . . The lovely lass shown here is Pat Henry, featured vocalist with the Johnny Hoover Trio playing nite at the Torrance Ramada Inn.

pear, be it The Tea House, the Marina Del Rey Hotel, the Jamaica Bay Inn, the Safari Room, the Bahamas Inn, the Latitude 20, the Trade Winds or any one of a number of top entertainment spots throughout the country.

So swing on by The Tea House soon and hear Teharu and Johnny in their own inimitable style of music-making.

Then of course you've still got those fine Polynesian shows every Monday nite featuring sultry and gifted Tiena. She's a little gal that knows what she's doing.

Featured with Johnny is the lovely and talented Pat Henry, who has been singing with the Hoover group for some time.

It's a breakfast, luncheon, cocktails, and dinner operation at the Torrance Ramada Inn plus huge banquet facilities. The coffee shop opens at six in the ayem.

According to the cards you find on the tables at Sir George's Smorgasbord, the most frequent comment they hear from the patrons is, "How can you do it at these prices?"

Well, don't let the prices fool you. Due to the acceptance of this fine dinner spot Sir George's is able to buy in such quantities that they are able, in turn, to put quality food on the tables along with sizeable servings. But that's not all. They've set up some strict produc-

Here's a group that are no newcomers to the Torrance area. It's the Johnny Hoover Trio playing nite, Thursday through Saturday for dancing and listening at the Torrance Ramada Inn.

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POLYNESIAN PAIR . . . That's Teharu on the left and Johnny on the right, appearing nite, Tuesday through Saturday at the Tea House Restaurant and Cocktail Lounge. A solid Polynesian presentation.

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tion controls at Sir George's and their cooking methods developed in their test kitchen assure freshness of the food served and enables them to minimize waste.

All the foregoing plus the attractive, family atmosphere makes Sir George's one of the truly delightful spots for luncheon or dinner in the area.

S'pose you know who's coming into the Latitude 20 Supper Club along about the 15th of October? It's the Ernie Menehune Show, the little leprachaun himself with his wonderful and friendly revue. Ernie opens next Tuesday nite for a three-month stand.

There's quite a history back of Ernie and Hop Louie, you know! In place of Cadillacs and jewelry baubles, Hop has chosen to show his appreciation for a fine talent by giving all the assistance he can to furthering the career of Ernie Menehune, thereby making him a major star in the nite club skies.

Born on the Garden Island of Kauai and schooled by the late Sam Kaeo, Ernie was unknown on the West Coast when he made his initial appearance at the Latitude 20 a year ago and audiences were so enthusiastic about "Hawaii's Sun-Tanned Irishman" that Hop signed him for a return three-month engagement.

Then when Hop Louie opened his beautiful new *Trade Winds* in Oxnard last month he insured its success by booking in Ernie for the first attraction. And with Hop's far-flung connections, Ernie was soon booked into Harrah's at Lake Tahoe then on to Reno for an additional stand.

Meanwhile it's Rene Paulo for the rest of this week and until Ernie opens next Tuesday.

You talk about quality food! That's it! Blum's Restaurant at the corner of Crenshaw and Artesia in Torrance. At its finest!

And for the kids there's a free dish of ice cream with each dinner, provided the kids are under 10.

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